

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of May 27, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-11 and 13 remain pending. Claims 12 and 14-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Preliminarily, applicants note with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 2-8, 10, 11 and 13 have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to incorporate all the features of their ultimate base claim and any intervening claims.

The title of the invention has been objected to as being non-descriptive. Applicants have amended the title above to overcome this objection.

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,046,935 to Takeuchi et al. ("Takeuchi"). Notwithstanding the merits of this rejection, to expedite prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance, applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, rewritten claim 2 in independent form and amended claims 3, 9, 10 and 13 to depend from claim 2. These amendments render the rejection based on Takeuchi moot.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Appln. No.: 10/664,977
Amendment dated August 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2005

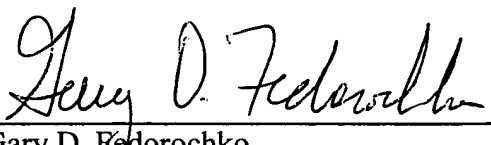
All objections and rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: August 25, 2005

By:



Gary D. Fedorochko
Registration No. 35,509

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001
GDF:lab